

ALPHA TAU OMEGA PALM

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SIXTEENTH BIENNIAL CONGRESS.

SO far back that the mind of no Alpha Tau runs to the contrary, each successive Congress of the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity has been regularly pronounced in the PALM to have been "the most successful Congress in the history of the fraternity." From this frequent use, however, the phrase has not lost its significance, but, rather, as the years have rolled on, it has gathered a fuller meaning, because in each instance it has been true. At the same time, it involves no invidious comparisons, because each successive Congress is the expression of two years of additional growth and progress, and the Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity means something more to-day than it did yesterday. And yet no brother who was in attendance at the Sixteenth Biennial Congress failed to carry away with him memories and impressions that convinced him that he had been a part of one of the most pleasant and profitable events in fraternity history. No criticism has yet come to our ears, and save for one dark shadow, for which no earthly power was responsible, but which manifested the interference of a mysterious divine Providence, every feature and circumstance of the biennial reunion was extremely enjoyable. Had it not been for the death of Bro. McCranie in two weeks after the close of the banquet on the night of the next to the last day of the year, not one regret would arise in connection with our last Congress.

Never before have so many Alpha Taus been gathered together as in the Crescent City on December 28, 29 and 30, 1898. They came from points within a radius of more than 1500 miles from the city of New Orleans, and it was remarkable that

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES ON CONGRESS.

NEVER before have there been so many visiting ladies present at Congress. Mrs. Ehle was the first to attend, at Washington, in 1894, while Mrs. C. K. Cowen and she were the only ladies present at Cleveland, in 1896, while at New Orleans, these ladies were joined by Mrs. L. W. Glazebrook, Mrs. C. K. Gaines, Mrs. E. P. Lyon and Mrs. James E. Green. It was a cause of much regret that Mrs. Lyon, owing to illness, was compelled to leave before Congress closed its sessions.

Some of the grand officers while on the way to their car are said to have forgotten that they were in New Orleans and to have become a little careless in crossing streets. The result was, however, no more serious than a little soiled clothing.

On the day on which the public exercises were held, Bro. Theodore S. Wilkinson entertained Bros. O. A. Glazebrook, L. W. Glazebrook, Ehle and Fitts at lunch at the Gem Restaurant.

Mr. and Mrs. Ehle and Bros. Rutzler and Harrington, of N. Y. Beta Theta, stayed over in New Orleans for the Twelfth Night Ball, and had every reason to congratulate themselves on their determination, as the Ball was a magnificent success, even beyond the promises made. Needless to say, Alpha Taus were prominent in this, as well as in all other affairs of the kind in New Orleans, and while the names of the maskers are religiously kept secret, it is violating no confidence to say that their leader was an Alpha Tau and that there were many others among their number.

Among the new yells developed at the banquet were the following:

A for Alpha; T for Tau!
O-M-E-G-A!
Alpha Tau Omega!
Hip! Hurrah! Hooray!
Rah! Rah! Rega!
Alpha Tau Omega!
Gold and Blue, ever true!
Alpha Tau Omega!

Veevo!—Vivo!—
 Veevo, Vivo, Vum!
 Vum! Vum! Vum
 Rat-trap bigger'n a cat-trap—
 Veevo, Vivo—A. T. O.!

Here's to Glazebrook!
 Here's to Glazebrook!
 For we love you as you know.
 There's no mistaking
 Our foud devotion
 To you and A. T. O.

Every girl at the A. T. O. ball was a wearer of the Maltese Cross. No others were invited.

A good deal was heard at the St. James about two mysterious articles: "A Sazerac Cocktail" and an "Imperial Gin Fizz." We believe they had reference to a new degree instituted by Bros. Ruffin, Martin and Lyle.

There were some beautiful chapter banners at New Orleans. Some of the most noteworthy were those of Ill. Gamma Zeta, Ga. Alpha Beta and La. Beta Epsilon. The last was a gift from the A. T. O. girls of New Orleans.

It is whispered that the entertainment of Congress on the very lavish scale apparent to all has not left a cent of debt on the active chapter. The large amount necessary was raised by subscription and speaks eloquently for the loyalty of the New Orleans brothers.

We hope the Leverich-Bell quartette will appear at the Boston Congress.

Some comment was made on the large size of the pins worn by the New Orleans brothers. This is easily explained. The old style pins of ancient days are worn for the reason that the girls have all of the small, modern, jewelled ones, and are proud of them too. The social requirements in New Orleans are such, that each brother must have, at least, two badges, and many have more. Statistics do not yet show whether all the delegates wore their badges home. Facts may leak out later.

Everybody regretted very much that Bro. O. N. O. Watts, the founder of La. Beta Epsilon, could not be present at Congress; but he was serving his country as Seargt. of Hood's